

Strengthening Peace and Economic Cooperation in South Asia

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Abstract

Conflict resolution proponents consider economic integration the silver bullet. Politically stable states in Europe and Southeast Asia are currently united under a single flag. While "monetary inclusion" is sometimes cited as a means toward stability, this is not always the case. But a unified currency is not necessarily the key to peaceful coexistence. This article will examine South Asia to see if and how much monetary settlement has aided in maintaining peace in that region. Despite attempts to bring nations together in South Asia through peace and monetary reconciliation, these efforts have been mostly ignored. Entombment and interstate strife are major contributors to this problem. While this article focuses on provincial financial partnerships as a means of promoting development and peace in South Asia, it argues that the legacy of state structures in the region effectively preempts any such provincial involvement. The religious and socioeconomic tensions that fuel the political turmoil in South Asia portend a bleak future for the area. In light of recent events, it would appear that praying for a peaceful synthesis and permanent peace in South Asia through reconciliation is naive.

Keywords: *Strengthening, Peace, Economic Cooperation.*

Introduction

At this point in history, South Asia is at a turning point, altering the economic landscapes of its neighbors and becoming a global leader in the expansion of the global economy and human progress in the twenty-first century. After 350 years, the center of economic activity is finally shifting from Europe and North America to Asia (Robins, 2013). Within the next two decades, China will overtake the United States and India to become the world's largest economy. South Asia is home to the world's second-largest economy, but if its countries worked together, they could surpass China (Robins, 2013). South Asia has the potential to overtake China as the world's most powerful economic region due to its proximity to China and economic complementarities with that country. Since it was so successful in bringing together countries that were once considered hazards to one another, the design of a strategy for territorial financial involvement following World War II was a key contribution to

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global political economy (Robins, 2013). Throughout the history of nation-state growth, economic forces have consistently outnumbered political ones. This is exemplified by the European Union and Southeast Asian countries, both of which have experienced growing cooperation as a result of economic factors (Hitchcock et al., 2018).

In the current international economic picture, slow growth, recession, and protectionist tendencies in wealthy countries have been very good for the growth of economies in developing countries. Getting worse trade terms, a severe balance of payments crisis, and a huge amount of debt have all made it hard for developing countries to grow their economies (Rapetti, 2016). This means that the growing economies of the world will have to work together more than they have in the past.

We also discuss another worldview that places a premium on cooperation to ensure the survival of both the economy and the environment. Different from the conventional view, which promotes international competition and war for the sake of equitably dividing resources and authority, this alternative view offers a new lens through which to examine international relations. An analysis of how progress, human security, and the ongoing peace endeavor are interconnected is presented in Chapter 4. (Nyadera & Bingol, 2021). Part 5 provides an overview of the history of the peace process between India and Pakistan, the dynamics of way dependency, and prospective near- and intermediate-term steps to advance the peace process and bring about territorial cooperation.

An increasing number of countries are working together to create regional security organizations, procedures, and activities, and Central Africa is a prime example of this trend. The increased reluctance of the international community to intervene militarily in international crises throughout the 1990s was a major factor fueling this transformation (Kurth 2005). Changing global priorities and a resurgence of interest in Asia and Eastern Europe are major factors contributing to this reluctance. Western countries are already wary of sending ground troops to Africa for peacekeeping missions, and the U.S.'s presence in Somalia has further increased these concerns. Moreover, the new administration in France brought about considerable changes in the country's policy toward Africa (Gounin 2009).

An African Standby Force (ASF) is the most important instrument for maintaining peace and order in Africa. The African Union Stabilization Force (ASF) will use five reserve units of 3,000 to 5,000 troops each to maintain peace and order in provinces across the continent's northern, eastern, western, central, and southern regions. These areas are suitable for establishing a base of operations, storing goods, and formulating a strategy. The Middle Eastern Maghreb Union (UMA), the

Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CENSAD), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) are among the nine regional groups that support African peace engineering (ECCAS). Regional decisions on ASF will be made through the East Africa Standby Brigade Coordination Mechanism (EASBRICOM) and the North Africa Regional Capabilities (NARC). Events on the African continent often prompt the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) to try to develop a regional security framework in the region. Although MARAC's early warning system was supposed to be incorporated into CEWS, ASF opted to adopt FOMAC instead. A new memorandum of understanding was signed between the African Union and the Economic Community of Central African States to improve communication between the two bodies and the numerous local organizations and institutions that help maintain peace and security in Africa (Porto, 2016). The progress of various regional initiatives to design for peace and security in Africa is highly asymmetrical across the continent.

Objectives

Anyone living in South Asia can profit from the SAARC sanctions' objectives, regulations, and methods. Exchange information with other developing countries, take part in international discussions of basic issues, and work together with international non-governmental organizations with similar aims. By upholding the Standards of sovereign uniformity, regional trustworthiness, political freedom, apathy in the Member States' internal undertakings, and common advantage, it supplements its Member States' bilateral and multilateral relations to speed up economic and social development (Grüsser et al., 2006). While SAARC has been hailed as a historic step toward peace in South Asia, modest improvements and unobtrusive accomplishments have elicited contrasting responses over time. For some, it's just another venue for discussing peace and progress. Although it is not a panacea, it has opened up regular dialogue among provincial decision-makers and specialists on matters of safety, commerce, and development. The process of restoring calm in South Asia was kicked off by casual conversations amongst politicians.

All seven SAARC countries decreased tariffs and streamlined trade in 1995 after adopting the SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA) and in 2006 after creating the SAARC Free Trade Area (SAFTA). The IGEG's discussions have raised hopes that SAARC will play a significant role in expanding South Asia's territorial financial participation (Alimoradi et al., 2019). Taxes and other trade

restrictions were removed so that SAPTA could join SAFTA. Interprovincial commerce is governed by this declaration. Yet, the affiliation preferences of each country reveal important details. Second, each country has a political objective for the association, even though provincial collaboration is the stated goal of designing and joining the organization. These political aims were affected by their recognition, national goals, and location, showing that the strategy was undesirable and that provincial collaboration was not the primary motive for joining the affiliation (Desbiens, 2013). For many years, SAARC has functioned as a political group (Steinfeld, 2002).

In the last few years, a number of SAARC countries have seen their economies grow quickly and their international trade increase. As a result, SAARC has made a lot of progress in the last few years toward improving cooperation within the central monetary zone (Singh, 2016). All of this is thanks to the strengthening of the WTO and ASEAN. In this article, Ananya Mukherjee Reed argues that globalization's theological inconsistency is the sole cause of the "new" regionalism in South Asia, which increases rivalry from one perspective while simultaneously increasing the need for joint effort; institutional structures alone cannot solve problems arising from verifiable procedures and structures; and attainable methods for participation in South Asia require the activation of nonstarter performances.

Notable figures in the region founded SAARC. With the pooling of regional resources in the form of economic integration, summit diplomacy encouraged peace, lasting peace, and mutual economic welfare (Hameiri et al., 2019). Nineteen years later, the organization and the South Asian countries still haven't managed to forge a unified front or foster lasting peace and cooperation. Westerners are becoming interested in South Asia. South Asia was the most hazardous place on Earth before there were two nuclear powers. Because of this, research into topics like South Asian collaboration and conflict has been given new life.

Analysis

If differences can be put aside, monetary unions can be beneficial to both growth and stability. Yet, the development of genuine states is the explanation for South Asia's determined endeavor. The unmanaged tensions between India and Pakistan have made it more difficult for the two countries to mix their economies and work toward peace. This suggests that the major governments of South Asia are not interested in resuming financial coordination in order to accomplish their objectives. South Asian provinces suffer from a similar lack of financial support. The lessons that can be learned from history show that successful territorial monetary cooperation can be achieved when nations share a political viewpoint. The continuation of the Cold

War provided a second compelling motive for the nations of Western Europe to combine their resources in order to improve essential quality. After there is political peace, there should be financial concord. In order to combat the spread of communism in Vietnam and China, the original members of ASEAN decided to form an organization that would remain overtly apolitical. The individual countries that make up ASEAN are united in their recalcitrance. They are difficult to find in South Asian countries. When a large power pursues a "expansionist" policy toward a lesser power, the smaller power can anticipate interactions that are antagonistic and fraught with unpredictability. It is interesting that India is currently occupying a hegemonic phase in relation to her South Asian neighbors. India views the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, or SAARC, as a chance for South Asian societies to come together in opposition to Indian hegemony. Former Indian Prime Minister I. K. Gujral implemented a policy known as the "Gujral Doctrine" in an effort to ease tensions amongst India's surrounding countries. The five standards outlined in the Gujral Doctrine indicate that India's level of quality is unrivaled by any of its regional competitors. As a consequence of this, it sets a premium on being in close quarters with other people. First, India does not expect correspondence from its neighbors but rather gives and obligates what it can under the aegis of regular convention and trust; second, no South Asian country should enable its area to be used against the excitement of another country of the district; third, no country should interfere in the internal issues of another; and fourth, all South Asian countries must yet metho. The Tribal officials stated that they had their reservations. After Gujral's passing, the ceremony continued as planned. The countries of India and Pakistan have been unable to communicate with one another as a consequence of the numerous political and bureaucratic barriers that exist between them. It is possible that regional cooperation would come to an end if South Asian politics continue to be unstable. Even for the recently formed SAPTA, the promotion of intra-SAARC trade has proven to be challenging. As a direct consequence of this, the formation of a SAFTA became a less likely possibility. If trade is to be facilitated across cultural boundaries, then all SAARC countries should agree to a consistent import system, either legally or informally. No country will dominate the import method, and this is a requirement if trade is to be enabled. But, until there is adequate political amity among the nations that make up a region, they won't be able to reach an agreement on sacrifices such as giving up authority over their import strategy. When looking at South Asia in particular, the economy that is the most stable, India's, will often outperform the average for the area. Hence, despite the fact that South Asia is an attractive destination for financial investment and even mixing, achieving political stability in the region will require a significant amount of effort. Disputes in Kashmir, Bangladesh, Nepal,

and other regions are among those that have been proposed as potential resolution targets.

In spite of the geoauthoritarian concerns that exist in the region, state-building efforts in South Asia have led to a rather regular stream of contacts that slam the door on local financial investment opportunities. This failure to regionalize can be attributed to a number of compelling political reasons, including the genuine divisions that exist among the countries that make up the region. I'm specifically referring to Latin America and the Caribbean. Despite the fact that it brings attention to South Asia's geo-administrative challenges, the region's long tradition of state-level planning has in fact developed a very stable and long-lasting strategy of interactions that precludes regional financial cooperation. Regionalization has not taken place because there are numerous political considerations that prevent regional administrations from being able to settle their disagreements and work together. The political tensions and struggles in the region present an opportunity for a mutually beneficial exchange of weakness and put to the test the development of a South Asian Union on par with the European Union. This type of union would provide for the free development of its citizens; a common currency; and broad external and fiscal policies that will plant the seeds of peace. The peaceful exchange of vulnerabilities and the monitoring of the South Asian Union's progress toward parity with the European Union, which offers free advancement of people, normal money, and normal exterior and financial courses of action, are two ways that the seeds of peace can be planted in South Asia.

Recommendations:

- Resolve longstanding of bilateral issues between Pakistan and India (They restrict the growth of SAARC)
- Make changes in the SARRC charter: Currently it stresses unanimity in decision making (all members should be taken on board before taking decisions). But it slows the process of SAARC.
- Resolve the longstanding and unresolved border issues, drug trafficking.
- India needs to show more respect towards other members. It should change its dominating attitude and give space to other member states in SAARC.
- Member states should focus on collective benefits rather than thinking on individual benefits.
- NGO's play a great role in development within south Asia, SAARC should create a department within itself that deals solely with the management of NGO's, making sure they have the resources to work properly in the region. This

department will serve as a middle man between the state and the organization. And will help this organization to work in the best way possible in the whole region.

- River water pollution is a serious problem in the South Asia. The polluted water from Nepal and India is causing serious health and environmental hazard in Bangladesh. SAARC should fund an awareness campaign that should be organized throughout the South Asia to make the river water clean. SAARC should make a policy to save water in its each member state.
- SAARC should set-up a development bank which focuses on providing Poverty Alleviation Funds to SAARC members.
- SCO should develop and implement a mechanism focused completely on human rights protection.
- SCO should guarantee the transparency and access to information to the working on SCO organization.
- SCO should involve civil rights representatives, including NGO's for human rights for discussions and assessment regarding the cooperation among member countries.
- SCO should adopt transparent human rights principles.
- Russia should know that other countries languages are important as well and if they want Russian language to be spoken more they must contribute in the developing projects as well like Silk Road Economic Belt (SREC).
- Russia should not forget that other countries in the Central Asia like China and other developing countries have strong positions in the world and they must maintain good relations with them to insure peace and the development of the region if Russia did not maintain good relations it will create a great unrest in the Central Asia.
- SCO should expand its membership and give other countries a chance to join this organization. This will increase stability and also will increase the resources and funding from other countries as well.

Conclusion:

Economy has become the most important factor in defining the relations between the countries. A region can only prosper if the members in those countries strive to work towards improving their economic conditions India and Pakistan need to understand that without resolving Kashmir dispute, there can be no peace and

stability in the region. In this regard India needs to show more flexibility and should focus on including third party in the mediation process. US doesn't seem interested. So, both countries should use the platform of SCO and they can include Russia and China in the mediation process(Weiss & Schneider, 2015). These 2 countries would definitely play their part to resolve Kashmir issue, as they know that Kashmir issue possesses threat for the region. Various functional committees can be formed that can ensure multilateral agreement to resolve Kashmir issue. Moreover, it can also force Pak and India to sign some sort of binding agreement. But doing so, the SCO committee that comprises of China and Russia should openly listen to the stakeholders and take decisions after their consultations. The will of Kashmiri people should also be heard. Only after doing this, we can expect a demilitarized Kashmir that can contribute towards peace for the whole region. And the issues between other countries like Tajikistan and Uzbekistan on the water resources must be quickly handled before it poses a threat to peace and growing tensions between Russia and China over the direction of the organization and who will be its main leader poses a threat to SCO's working as well. All these matters should be managed before it's too late for the betterment of the region.

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